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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/29/01 5:32pm
Subject: Antitrust case settlement inappropriately weak

I would like to express my disappointment with weakness of the impending settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case.

Microsoft has repeatedly engaged in anti-competitive practices, as the judicial findings against the company confirm. Use of secret application program interface (API) calls give Microsoft applications an advantage in the Windows environment over competitors, and allow Microsoft to continue to abuse its monopoly status in order to wipe out free choice in the marketplace. The only way to force these APIs to be open is to split operating system developments and applications development into two separate companies.

Furthermore, the penalties to be imposed do not remedy the situation, and in fact amount to free advertising for Microsoft with the next generation of computer users: students. Microsoft will make duplicates of its already-existing software to distribute at a fraction of the cost of retail products, yet these distributions will count against the company as having much higher value.

Even if the company were forced to pay the settlement in cash, the amount is only about 4% of its cash reserves. This punishment cannot in any way be considered a remedy, or punitive.

I urge the DOJ to reconsider the leniency it is showing a proven monopolist. The settlement the DOJ is pursuing will not remedy the monopoly practices of Microsoft, nor will it result in greater protections for consumers.

-Dr. Christopher A. Grasso

The statements herein express personal opinions that should in no way be construed to represent the positions of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory or Stellar Solutions.

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